DIG FOR VICTORY

"Every endeavour must be made to........ produce the greatest volume of food of which this fertile Island is capable. . ."

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL
IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
NOVEMBER 5th, 1940.

Wt. 42938-5232XA 2/41.

THE Plan on page 4 provides for the cropping of a garden or allotment to produce a steady supply of vegetables to the kitchen in every week of the year. Any alternative crop selected should mature at the same season as the crop displaced ; otherwise, too much would be ready at one period and too little at another.

In war time particularly, we need the vegetables that will be of the most value to our health. Green leafy vegetables, green salads, carrots, peas, beans and potatoes are particularly valuable in this respect. Green vegetables in the winter are especially recommended, and supplies of these can be obtained by growing winter cabbages, spinach beet, late savoys, kales and sprouting broccoli.

FERTILE SOIL

To produce good vegetables, soils must be made fertile. Fertility is increased by practising thorough methods of cultivation and applying adequate organic matter, sufficient lime and minerals to the soil.

Digging

Adopt a system of rotation for the vegetable plot so that a part of it, namely, one third, is thoroughly dug and manured once in three years. The portion given over to potatoes and root crops is best suited for this treatment. When breaking up fresh land, the principle to be adopted is the same, but the whole plot must be treated.

When double digging any plot of regular shape, such as a 10-rod allotment, it is best to divide it lengthways into two sections. Begin by taking out a trench across the end of one section 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep. If turf is present, pare it off about 2 in. thick, and, together with the excavated soil beneath, remove it to the adjacent section, where the work will finish.

The exposed sub-soil is then forked up to a depth of about 10 in., and on this the turves taken from the next 18-in. width of the land are placed grass downwards. The second 18-in. width of top soil is then dug to a depth of 1 ft. and thrown forward on to the inverted turves, and the sub-soil forked up. This process is repeated throughout the length of the first section, and the second section is then similarly dealt with. Complete the work by filling up the working trench with the soil taken out of the first trench on the first section.

The double digging of land already under cultivation proceeds in exactly the same manner except that, in place of the turf, manure, material from the compost heap or waste plant material is placed in the trench on top of the broken up sub-soil.

It is important to remember that the digging of heavy clay soils should be done when dry in late autumn, so that the full benefit of frost action in breaking it down to a fine tilth can be secured. Loamy or sandy soils can be left later, but all soils are better for early digging so that they are well consolidated by sowing time.

Feeding the Soil

Because continued cultivation uses up the organic matter and crops remove the minerals, fertility declines. Losses must be made good. Both organic matter and minerals are added by applying farmyard or stable manure or compost. Two barrow-loads would be sufficient for each rod of land (i.e., 30¼ sq. yards) that is double dug. Remember that a well made compost is as good as farmyard manure.

Compost Heap

All the waste organic material from house and garden, including weeds and lawn-mowings, should be mixed and stacked in heaps for composting. The rotting process can be hastened by the addition, from time to time, of a thin layer of farmyard, poultry, or pigeon manure to each 9 in. layer. If manure is not available, sulphate of ammonia can be used at the rate of a handful per square yard. Powdered limestone or chalk may be sprinkled on the vegetable material, but it must not be brought into contact with the sulphate of ammonia. The material from the compost heap can be used at the end of six months, but it is better if used after composting for 12 months. The fine material from the compost heap, like well rotted dung, is excellent for placing in the drills with potato sets.

Lime

Lime-deficient soils may be sour (acid), becoming difficult to work, infertile, and generally unsatisfactory for the growth of some vegetables. Correct these conditions by liming judiciously once every three years. Where information is needed on this point, it should be sought from the horticultural staff at the County Offices or Town Hall, if possible through the local horticultural or allotment society.

Fertilizers and Manures

The mineral supply of the soil can be increased by giving an annual dressing for 10 rods of

30 lb. superphosphate
20 lb. sulphate of potash

applied at the beginning of the season to land free of crops. A dressing of 1½ lb. of sulphate of ammonia per rod will be needed, but this should be applied to the growing crops. Green crops and potatoes require an additional dressing of sulphate of ammonia.

If there is any difficulty in purchasing supplies of potash, gardeners are advised to use increased quantities of compost material or farmyard manure or wood ashes, for these contain potash. Superphosphate may be less plentiful, but basic slag, if available, is a satisfactory alternative if applied during the winter at the rate of 50 lb. per 10 rods.

Poultry, pigeon or rabbit manure, feathers, town refuse, sewage sludge, rags, shoddy, seaweed, wood ashes, soot, castor meal, fish meal, dried blood, are all of value and should be used to enrich the soil with organic and mineral material.

VEGETABLES ALL THE YEAR ROUND

To maintain a weekly supply of vegetables throughout the year, crops that mature in succession must be selected and the seeds sown at suitable times. Information of this is given in the Table on p. 5, but it should be emphasized that the seed of winter cabbages, late savoys, kales and sprouting broccoli should not be sown until the last week in May or early June; otherwise, these crops will mature early in the season and leave the ground bare of winter supplies.

Continued on page 6

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Continued on page 6

CROPPING PLAN

	Compost Heap Tool Shed Seedbed Tomatoes, Marrow, Radish, Parsley	
C MISCELLANEOUS CROPS	Dwarf Peas .. .. 3 rows 2 ft. 6 in. apart.	Intercrop with Spinach .. 2 rows and follow with Leeks .. .. .. 4 rows 1 ft. apart.
	Dwarf Beans .. .. 2 rows 2 ft. 6 in. apart.	
	Onions .. .. .. 8 rows 1 ft. apart.	Follow with Spring Cabbage .. 4 rows
	Shallots .. .. .. 2 rows 1 ft. apart Broad Beans .. 1 double row	Follow with Winter Lettuce Intercrop with Summer Lettuce
	Runner Beans .. .. 1 row	
A POTATOES AND ROOT CROPS	Parsnip .. .. .. 3 rows 15 in. apart.	
	Carrot (Maincrop) .. 5 rows 1 ft. apart.	
	Potatoes (Early) .. .. 3 rows 2 ft. by 1 ft.	Follow with Turnips
	Potatoes (Others) .. .. 6 rows 2 ft. by 1 ft. 3 in.	
	Spinach Beet or Seakale Beet .. .. .. 1 row	
B WINTER AND SPRING GREEN CROPS		Maincrops Cabbage (Winter) .. 3 rows 2 ft. by 2 ft.
	Intercrop space for Savoys and Brussels Sprouts with Early Carrots 2 rows, and Early Beet, 1 row.	Savoys .. .. .. 2 rows 2 ft. by 2 ft. Brussels Sprouts .. .. 2 rows 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 6 in.
	Early Dwarf Peas .. 1 row	Sprouting Broccoli .. 2 rows 2 ft. by 2 ft. Kale .. .. .. 2 rows 2 ft. by 2 ft. Swedes .. .. .. 2 rows 1 ft. 3 in. apart. Globe Beet .. .. 2 rows 1 ft. 3 in. apart.

NOTE.—This Cropping Plan is not drawn to scale. The ground dimensions of the whole plot are 30 ft. by 90 ft. Sections A, B and C are each 30 ft. by 28 ft., and the space provided for Seedbed, Tool Shed, etc., is 30 ft. by 6 ft.

TABLE OF PLANTING AND PERIOD OF USE

Crop	Seed Required	Time of Sowing	Distance Apart		Period of use
			Rows	Plants	
Beans (Broad)	½ pint	Feb.–March	1 double row	6 in. by 9 in.	July.
,, (Dwarf)	¼ pint	Late April–Early May	2½ ft.	9 in.	July–Aug.
,, (Dry Haricot)	½ pint	Late April–Early May	2½ ft.	9 in.	Winter
,, (Runner)	½ pint	Mid-May		9 in.	July–Oct.
Beet	½ oz.	(1) April (2) June	15 in.	6 in. (thin)	July–April
Broccoli (Sprouting)	1 Pkt.	Mid-May Plant mid-July	2 ft.	2 ft.	April–May
Brussels Sprouts	,,	March Plant May–June	2½ ft.	2½ ft.	Nov.–Mar.
Cabbage (Spring)	,,	July–August Plant Sept.–Early Oct.	1½ ft.	1½ ft.	April–Jan.
Cabbage (Winter)	,,	Mid-May Plant Mid-July	2 ft.	2 ft.	
Cabbage (Cold Districts)	,,	April	1½ ft.	1½ ft.	Autumn
Carrots (Early)	½ oz.	April	1 ft.	6 in. (thin)	June–May
,, (Maincrop)	1 oz.	June–Early July			
Kale	1 Pkt.	May Plant Mid-July	2 ft.	2 ft.	Jan.–April
Leeks	¼ oz.	March Plant July	1 ft.	6 in. 9 in.	Mar.–May
Lettuce (Summer)	¼ oz.	March, and every 14 days.	Between other crops	9 in.	May–Oct.
,, (Winter Hardy)	1 Pkt.	Sept.	1 ft.	9 in.	Spring
Marrow	1 Pkt.	May		3–4 ft.	July–Feb.
Onions	1 oz.	Mid-Feb.	1 ft.	6 in. (thin)	July–June
Parsnips	¼ oz.	Mid.-Feb.–Mid-March	15 in.	6 in. (thin)	Nov.–Mar.
Peas (Early)	¼ pint	March and April	2½ ft.	3 in.	June–July
,, (Others)	1 pint				
Potatoes (Early)	14 lb.	March	2 ft.	1 ft.	July–Mar.
,, (Others)	14 lb.	April	2 ft.	1 ft. 3 in.	
Radishes	1 oz.	March onwards	1 ft.		May–June
Savoy	1 Pkt.	Late May Plant July–Aug.	2 ft.	2 ft.	Jan.–Mar.
Shallots	1½ lb. sets	February	1 ft.	6 in.	Jan.–Dec.
Spinach (Summer)	½ oz.	Mid-April	1 ft.	6 in. (thin)	Summer
,, (Winter)	½ oz.	Sept.	1 ft.	6 in. (thin)	Spring
Spinach Beet or Seakale Beet	½ oz.	April		8 in. (groups)	Jan.–Oct.
Swedes	¼ oz.	End June	15 in.	6 in. (thin)	Dec.–Mar.
Tomatoes	—	Plant end May		15 in.	Aug.–Oct.
Turnip (Roots)	¼ oz.	July	1 ft.	6 in. (thin)	Oct.–Mar.
,, (Tops)	¼ oz.	August, end	1 ft.	Sow thinly	April

Change of Crops

The garden should be divided into three sections and a rotation of crops practised in accordance with the plan printed below :

A	C	B
B	A	C
C	B	A

If the plan is followed, as each crop matures the land will become free in time for the digging and planting or seeding of the following crop.

STORAGE*

Some of the vegetables should be stored under cover during the winter. **SHALLOTS AND ONIONS** should be stored in an airy damp-proof building.

CARROTS, TURNIPS AND BEETS should be lifted in October. The tops should be trimmed and the roots packed between layers of sand or soil. If the heap is out of doors it should be covered with straw or other material.

POTATOES should be left after digging 6 hours in the air to dry and then stored immediately in boxes in a frost-proof dark shed.

MARROWS should be harvested when really ripe and dry and hung in nets.

PARSNIPS, LEEKS AND SWEDES are best used from the ground as required. In early March parsnips should be lifted and stored, and leeks lifted and heeled in. This prevents spoilage.

ROUTINE MEASURES TO CONTROL PESTS

Measures should always be taken to control commonly occurring pests.

SLUGS. Place small heaps of a mixture of "Meta" and bran or tea leaves (1 brick of crushed Meta to 1 pint of bran) around the attacked crop on a warm evening when the soil is moist. Cover the heaps with wood or glass. See Advisory Leaflet No. 115.†

BLACK FLY ON BEANS. Pinch out the growing points and burn them. In bad attacks plants should be treated with nicotine dusts or sprays or materials sold for the control of green fly ; these are manufactured articles and must be used in accordance with the directions on the packet. See Advisory Leaflet No. 54.†

FLEA BEETLE. Attacks radishes, turnips and green crops both above and below ground. Dust the seedlings with powders containing Derris as they are coming through the soil. In bad attacks the treatment may have to be repeated at intervals of 3 or 4 days. If the seedlings are kept growing with plenty of moisture, less damage occurs. See Advisory Leaflet No. 109.†

CABBAGE CATERPILLARS. Cabbages and related vegetables are regularly attacked by the caterpillars. Hand pick the young caterpillars and crush the egg clusters. Poisonous sprays must not be used, but Derris dust is satisfactory and should be used according to the directions on the packet. See Advisory Leaflet No. 69.*

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* Fuller information is given in separate "Growmore" Leaflets obtainable free from the Ministry, namely, No. 25, "Storage of Potatoes by Small Growers," and No. 26, "Storing Garden Vegetables and Fruits."

† Obtainable free and post free from the Ministry.

POTATO BLIGHT. To prevent Blight, spray the foliage with Burgundy or Bordeaux mixture in mid-July and again at intervals. See Growmore Leaflet No. 30.* There are also on the market proprietary copper fungicides which are similar in their effects to Bordeaux and Burgundy mixtures. It is undesirable to take this measure in industrial areas as extensive damage to the foliage usually results.

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Free "DIG FOR VICTORY" and "GROWMORE"

Leaflets are also provided by the Ministry on the following subjects.

"Dig for Victory"

No. 2. Onions, Leeks, Shallots and Garlic.
No. 4. Peas and Beans.
No. 5. Cabbages and Related Crops.
No. 6. Root Vegetables.
No. 7. Manure from Garden Rubbish.

"Growmore"

No. 9. Better Fruit : Disease Control in Private Gardens.
No. 30. Preparation of Bordeaux and Burgundy Mixtures in Small Quantities.
No. 32. Seed Potatoes for the Allotment and Garden.
No. 57. Tomato Growing is Not Difficult.

"Growmore" Bulletin No. 1—Food from the Garden—may be purchased from H.M. Stationery Office. Price 3d. net.

HOTEL LINDUM—ST. ANNES-ON-SEA—LANCASHIRE
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